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Work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention

International cooperation in combating transnational crime: implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime

Strategic management and programme questions

Work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention

Report of the Executive Director

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I. Introduction

1. At its seventh session, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice agreed to reduce documentation and to strive for a more focused discussion and outcome of deliberations. Accordingly, this is the first report providing the Commission with an integrated overview of the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) and its future directions. The report covers the period between the seventh and eighth sessions of the Commission and fulfils several reporting obligations of the Secretariat in connection with the eighth session of the Commission.

II. Overview

A. The changing work environment

2. During the reporting period, crime prevention and criminal justice concerns continued to evolve throughout the world against the background of the end of the cold war and the globalization of information and markets. Organized crime has shown a great capacity to exploit different opportunities and has grown internationally through new alliances and activities. Illicit trafficking in drugs, firearms and other weapons, stolen cars, art and antiques is expanding in most parts of the world. As many as 4 million illegal immigrants are trafficked each year across borders by criminal groups earning an estimated $7 billion. Ever more efficient money-laundering schemes recycle hundreds of billions of dollars, undermining legal economies and democratic institutions.

3. In times of widespread change and instability, corruption—a key tool of organized crime—has a negative effect on the healthy development of many nations. A corrupt country is likely to achieve aggregate investment levels several percentage points lower than those of relatively uncorrupt ones and to lose considerably in gross domestic product growth per year.

4. The wide diffusion of computers and related information systems has prompted criminals both to exploit and target such systems. From hacking and extortion to the distribution of child pornography, new technologies have been used for criminal purposes. In many countries piracy rates exceed 80 per cent of the software on the market with revenue losses to the software industry worldwide estimated at $11.4 billion in 1997.

5. Local conflicts proliferate along ethnic and religious rather than ideological lines. As the accountability of state authorities and the military is obfuscated, civilian populations, prisoners of war and even international peacekeepers have been victims of increasingly vicious and arbitrary forms of violence. The illicit trade in firearms and their seepage throughout societies in conflict has contributed to the escalation of local violence and disproportionate use of force. The rule of law suffered greatly.

6. In many parts of the world the administration of justice continued to fall below those standards of timeliness, equity and respect for human rights which all citizens should expect. At the same time, a lively debate flourished in several countries on reform of the justice system and efforts were launched to upgrade the administration of justice, criminal codes and criminal justice procedures. Provisions were introduced to tackle such phenomena as corruption and money-laundering. Measures were also taken to curb the misuse of new technologies and turn them to the advantage of a modern and effective crime prevention system.

7. Of particular relevance from a United Nations perspective has been the growing recognition of the fact that no country by itself can cope successfully with the growth of international crime. Issues that were once traditionally considered the exclusive preserve of Governments are increasingly being addressed in multilateral settings where joint strategies and activities are agreed upon. The historic adoption of the Statute of the International Criminal Court[1] in Rome in June 1998 is a major example of that trend. On such issues as international cooperation in criminal matters, money-laundering and firearm regulations, initiatives proliferate in regional and multilateral forums. Non-governmental organizations, the private sector and religious authorities are increasingly active and bring cogently to the debate the voices and expectations of civil society.

8. It is against this background that the Centre for International Crime Prevention, strengthened through the Organization's reform efforts, has been playing a pivotal role in key areas of international concern. In pursuit of its mandate, the Centre has acted as a global advocate, a forum for policy-making and a provider of technical support to Member States both individually and collectively.

B. The way ahead

9. As reported to the Commission at its seventh session, the Centre has been undergoing a major review of its work methods and structure. The process, guided by the reforms of the Secretary-General and the changing requirements of the international community, has now been completed. Three organizational clusters have been established dealing with legal affairs and the servicing of the intergovernmental machinery, crime reduction and analysis, and technical cooperation. For the first time, the Centre has established a direct presence in the field by opening offices or creating staff positions. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute has become the research arm of the crime control agenda of the Centre. Relations with other institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network have been reoriented in pursuit of more productive, concrete cooperation. At the same time, contacts are being strengthened with additional academic and research institutions and with other entities within and outside the United Nations system. Close synergy has been established with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) under the umbrella of ODCCP.

10. The Centre has made a determined effort to support the trend towards a more streamlined and action-oriented work process on the part of intergovernmental bodies. Reports and other information conveyed to those bodies and to Member States are reviewed to ensure that they facilitate a more productive consideration of crime prevention and criminal justice issues. The preparatory process for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is being supported in a similar spirit.

11. Without renouncing traditional areas of involvement in crime prevention and criminal justice, the Centre is becoming increasingly involved in the fight against organized crime, trafficking in human beings and corruption. That vision is being pursued through a multi-pronged approach ranging from advocacy and the promotion of international legal instruments to technical cooperation. A highlight of the reporting year was the work on the elaboration of a convention against transnational organized crime and three additional international legal instruments, against illegal trafficking and transport of migrants, against trafficking in women and children and against illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. Strong political commitment and technical know-how were evident in the process and progress was most encouraging. The convention will be a key enabling instrument for Member States and multilateral organizations alike. Among the initiatives to support further efforts against organized crime, the Centre has proposed to Member States a project to assess transnational organized criminal groups, their dangerousness and trends.

12. In technical cooperation, the Centre is focusing on issues and work methods where the United Nations offers a comparative advantage. Projects are identified in close consultation with recipient and donor countries. Priority is given to developing countries that are most affected by crime, including countries emerging from conflicts and countries with economies in transition. Whenever conditions permit, the Centre follows a subregional approach to technical cooperation. Close synergy with UNDCP and other multilateral and bilateral assistance providers allows for a more comprehensive approach to such issues as money-laundering and drug control. In line with the Centre's new priorities for technical cooperation, three global programmes were launched in March 1999, against trafficking in human beings, against corruption and against organized crime.

13. The Centre will continue to consolidate the new work methods, develop appropriate initiatives and thus pursue vigorously its mandates in the areas of priority concern to Member States. A series of recommendations emanating from the examination of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme from various angles by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat provide guidance in that endeavour.

III. Supporting a global forum on criminal policy

14. The role of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme as a global forum on criminal policy has become increasingly valuable with the growing realization that no country by itself can cope successfully with the threat of crime. Efforts were continued to support that function, enhanced through the strategic management of the Programme by the Commission and through secretariat activities.

A. Strategic management by the Commission of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme

15. Between its seventh and eighth sessions, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice continued its inter-sessional activities in support of its strategic management of the Programme. The bureau of the Commission met on 15 June and 29 September 1998 and 15 January 1999 and is scheduled to meet again on 26 March 1999. Inter-sessional consultation meetings for permanent missions at Vienna were organized on 28 September 1998 and 15 January 1999 and another meeting is scheduled to be held on 26 March 1999. The inter-sessional meetings have been attended by a greater number of delegations than in the past. They considered the follow-up to the seventh session of the Commission by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998 and by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session; the preparations for the eighth session of the Commission, including submission of draft proposals for consideration by the Commission at that session; preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; the elaboration of a draft convention against transnational organized crime and related international legal instruments; technical cooperation activities of the Centre; and implementation of Commission resolution 7/1 of 30 April 1998 on strategic management.

B. Secretariat activities

16. The Centre continued to provide substantive and secretariat services to the global forum and its intergovernmental processes, while at the same time streamlining its related work so as to deploy resources in order to implement other mandates in pressing priority areas. The results of that streamlining effort are evident in the documentation prepared for the eighth session of the Commission, which is more concise.

17. The main elements of the Centre's work in that regard consisted of servicing the seventh session of the Commission and undertaking the required follow-up; preparing for the eighth session of the Commission; providing substantive support to the 1998 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council and the fifty-third session of the General Assembly; servicing the preparatory process and the two sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and related meetings (for details, see the report on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee (E/CN.15/1999/5)); and advancing preparations for the Tenth Congress, including the holding of four regional preparatory meetings (for details, see the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Tenth Congress (E/CN.15/1999/6)).

IV. Addressing organized crime

A. Elaborating a convention against transnational organized crime

18. As a central element of the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime,[4] the intergovernmental process has been launched for elaborating a convention against transnational organized crime and three additional international legal instruments. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime held its first session in Vienna from 19 to 29 January 1999.

19. The first session of the Ad Hoc Committee was attended by 91 States. The work of the Committee was marked by broad support for the Convention, strong political commitment and the presence of sound technical expertise. The Committee has made significant progress in its work: it completed the first formal reading of the draft text of the convention at its first session and has commenced negotiation of specific articles. It has also advanced work on additional international legal instruments against the following: illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition; illegal transporting of and trafficking in migrants; and trafficking in women and children.

20. The Ad Hoc Committee is scheduled to hold five more sessions in 1999: the second session from 8 to 12 March 1999; the third from 28 April to 3 May (during the eighth session of the Commission); the fourth from 28 June to 2 July; the fifth from 4 to 15 October; and the sixth from 6 to 10 December. The holding of the sixth session is subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds. The Secretariat is exploring the possibility of organizing further sessions in 1999. Three more sessions and a conference of plenipotentiaries are foreseen for 2000. The Ad Hoc Committee is expected to complete its

work on the convention and the additional legal instruments for submission to and approval by the Millennium General Assembly in the year 2000.

21. The progress report of the Ad Hoc Committee on its work will be before the Commission (E/CN.15/1999/5).

B. Assessing the threat of organized crime

22. Organized criminal groups currently pose a global threat and concrete danger to the international community. They have established international networks to better carry out their activities in licit and illicit markets. They employ sophisticated strategies and diverse modi operandi, which enable them to infiltrate the financial, economic and political systems of countries all over the world. Whereas the national or subnational knowledge base on the organized criminal groups and their operations is growing, there is no comprehensive global overview of organized crime, a requisite for effective international action to counteract this global menace.

23. In response to that need, the Centre has established a central repository of information and data on organized crime, accessible on the World Wide Web. It has also formulated a proposal for a project whose main objective is to assess the major and emerging groups involved in transnational organized crime according to their level of dangerousness. The degree of dangerousness will be assessed through a multidimensional approach based on different conceptual areas and related indicators that characterize organized criminal groups, such as financial strength, use of violence, capacity to infiltrate public institutions and legal environment in which they operate.

24. This research work will be undertaken using data and other information provided by specialized national and international agencies and relevant research persons and statistical institutes. The project will focus not on the identity of criminals but on the analysis of strategies, trends, dynamics and structures of the major transnational syndicates. This special focus will eliminate overlap with the work carried out by law enforcement agencies. At the same time, the project will benefit from close cooperation with institutions dealing with the subject and will complement and broaden the spectrum of information on the topic.

25. The above-mentioned project will be accompanied by a project to be undertaken by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Criminal Justice Institute. The aim of the latter project is to publish a world report on organized crime every two years, which will provide qualitative and quantitative information on trends in organized crime activities and structures of groups operating at the international level; types and distribution of illicit markets; major international initiatives; and developments in national legislation against organized crime. The two projects will lead to the establishment of a data bank on organized crime.

C. Preventing trafficking in human beings

26. Smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings have increased throughout the world in recent years, owing to a spectrum of factors, in particular the globalization process. The problem is exacerbated in both size and seriousness by the growing involvement of organized criminal groups. The smuggling of migrants by organized groups disrupts established immigration policies of the countries of destination and often involves severe human rights abuses. The exploitative nature of the treatment of the victims of trafficking often amounts to a new form of slavery.

27. To enable Governments and the international community to respond better to those transnational problems, the Centre, jointly with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, has prepared a global programme against trafficking in human beings. The programme is aimed at enabling countries of origin, transit and destination to develop joint strategies and practical action against that criminal undertaking and to empower donor and recipient countries to address a shared problem to their mutual benefit in a manner that transcends a purely bilateral approach. It will bring to the foreground the involvement of organized criminal groups in trafficking in human beings and promote the development of effective criminal justice-related responses.

28. In the first phase of the project, data from selected countries will be collected on different routes used for smuggling of human beings and the structures and modalities used for transporting and subsequently exploiting them. The analysis of data will make it possible to identify the extent and nature of the phenomena and the role played by criminal organizations in the various regions. Parallel to that analysis, an inventory will be made of best practices used worldwide against organized criminal groups involved in smuggling human beings,

including special legislation and institutional arrangements.

29. In the second phase, a series of demonstration projects will be launched in a number of interested countries and evaluated upon completion, thus constituting the pilot testing of technical cooperation activities. Those projects will seek to implement the best practices. They will assist Governments in (a) counteracting groups involved in smuggling humans; (b) strengthening crime prevention strategies against the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in humans in general; and (c) improving victim and witness protection and victim assistance. They will seek to establish mechanisms for collaboration among officials of law enforcement, immigration and the judiciary of different countries. Where relevant, the projects will build upon existing initiatives in concerned countries and will be supported by national and international entities and non-governmental organizations.

30. In the final phase, a global strategy against trafficking in human beings will be formulated in close consultation with relevant national and international organizations and presented for adoption by the international community, possibly at a high-level forum.

31. Several technical cooperation pilot projects that form part of the programme are currently being initiated by the Centre and are at various stages of preparation. These include a pilot project in the Philippines on inter-agency cooperation and an assessment and project formulation mission to Albania that addresses the issue of trafficking in human beings, to be undertaken jointly with UNDCP. Avenues are also being explored for joint initiatives with the European Commission.

V. Promoting standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

A. Assisting Member States to apply standards and norms

32. A broad catalogue of international standards, guidelines and model treaties in crime prevention and criminal justice has been developed, covering such areas as the treatment of prisoners, the conduct of law enforcement officials and public officials, the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials, the treatment of victims of crime, the independence of the judiciary, juvenile justice, corruption and bribery. With the increasing recognition of the importance of good governance, those instruments provide a foundation for promoting and maintaining the rule of law, a basic requisite for sustainable socio-economic development; furnish a basis for Governments to assess their systems, formulate legislation and develop effective tools for controlling national and transnational forms of crime; and provide a framework for technical assistance, which in turn serves as a catalyst for their implementation.

33. Before the Commission are: (a) a report of the Secretary-General on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice (E/CN.15/1999/7), which focuses on the implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex), the administration of juvenile justice, the information gathering system on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, and on measures to be taken by Member States to reduce prison overcrowding; and (b) a report of the Secretary-General on crime prevention (E/CN.15/1999/3), which gives an overview of the concept of crime prevention and summarizes the information received from Governments regarding the proposed instruments on responsible crime prevention.

34. The Centre has continued to support Member States in their efforts to create more efficient and fair justice systems, in particular by providing technical assistance in order to bring national regulations and practice into line with the standards and norms.

35. Many projects addressed a range of issues and aspects of criminal justice systems in order to respond to the requesting country's manifold needs. In 1998, the Centre completed two projects aimed at strengthening the criminal justice systems in the two component entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska. A framework for follow-up activities in the country is being drawn up under a project funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to be implemented jointly with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat. It will focus on matters involving organized crime, but will also deal with law reform and juvenile justice.

36. Three activities were undertaken in Albania. Firstly, a plan of action for the justice system in Albania was finalized, focusing on the development of the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Justice, courts and related agencies. Secondly, consultations on establishing a juvenile justice system were held with government institutions in Albania in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNDP. Thirdly, work was started on a subprogramme on crime within the framework of the ODCCP country programme for Albania (1999-2003).

37. On 3 November 1998, an agreement was signed by the Executive Director of ODCCP and the Vice-President of Guatemala regarding the formulation of a broad assistance programme in support of the criminal justice system in that country. The programme will cover a range of issues, such as organized crime, drug control, money-laundering, corruption, juvenile justice and criminal justice reform. A consultant engaged by the Centre initiated the programming work in the country in March 1999.

38. In 1998, the Centre held three training seminars on modern management for senior police officers in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in cooperation with the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and with the assistance of the International Police Task Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the International Criminal Investigations Training Assistance Programme of the United States of America.

39. A project to strengthen legislative and institutional capacities for juvenile justice is under implementation in Lebanon. As part of the project, training seminars on juvenile delinquency were organized jointly by UNICEF and the Centre.

40. A multidisciplinary project proposal on the reform of the administration of juvenile justice in Bangladesh has been developed in cooperation with UNICEF. A related project formulation mission was undertaken in pursuance of a recommendation by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the discussions at the first meeting of the Coordination Panel on Technical Advice and Assistance in Juvenile Justice.

41. As part of developing additional technical assistance tools, the Centre prepared modules for model legislation on juvenile justice that will facilitate the application of standards and norms in national legislation. The modules were used in relevant consultations with Governments.

42. A mission was undertaken to the Caribbean to support the improvement of prison conditions, following which a joint prison reform project for the Caribbean region was developed jointly by the Centre and UNDCP according to the Plan of Action for Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation in the Caribbean (Barbados Plan of Action), adopted by the Regional Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation, held in Bridgetown from 15 to 17 May 1996, which will be implemented with the support of the European Union.

43. An assessment and advisory mission was undertaken to Kazakhstan in response to a request from the Government of that country to support a programme for reforming its correctional system, and a training seminar was conducted for senior prison officers.

44. A needs assessment mission was undertaken to Botswana and Namibia to identify strategies to enhance crime prevention, both nationally and regionally. In South Africa, a project was started in 1998 to address violence against women and children by establishing two pilot outreach centres in Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape provinces.

B. Fighting corruption

45. As mentioned in paragraph 32, to counteract the phenomenon of corruption, the international community has drawn up several instruments, both under the auspices of the United Nations and other international organizations, such as the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials (General Assembly resolution 51/59, annex), the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions (General Assembly resolution 51/191, annex) and the conventions adopted by the Organization of American States, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Council of Europe.

46. The Centre, jointly with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, has developed a global programme against corruption, consisting of two main elements, a research component and a technical cooperation component.

47. The research component of the programme will establish the knowledge base for formulating and implementing technical cooperation measures and will consist of a global study of the phenomenon of corruption and the types and efficacy of anti-corruption measures. It will deal with three main types of corruption:

(a) corruption in public administration; (b) business corruption, that is, corruption in the milieu of medium-sized and international business; and (c) top-level corruption in the political, administrative and financial areas. The study will develop a "corruption monitoring protocol", a set of indicators on corruption trends and anti-corruption measures, to be used for the periodic review of the prevalence of corruption and the efficacy of countermeasures. Applied at the national level, the protocol will also facilitate comparative analysis. Importantly, the study will examine the nexus between corruption and organized crime. A database containing the information gathered through the study will be established, to be accessible worldwide by electronic means.

48. The technical cooperation component will assist Member States to build and/or strengthen their institutional capacity for preventing, detecting and fighting corruption nationally and internationally. At the national level, it will provide assistance in assessing measures against corruption, drafting or revising legislation, establishing or strengthening anti-corruption bodies, developing preventive measures and training policy makers and officials. At the international level, it will seek to create a pool of high-level experts, establish mechanisms for the transparency of public sector contracts and for international anti-corruption accountability through assessments by international experts, promote international legal instruments and establish an international forum on corruption and bribery.

49. The global programme envisages that, while the research component will cover all regions of the world, pilot technical cooperation activities will initially be implemented in one country each in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

50. The global programme has been developed taking fully into account already existing international activities, so as to avoid duplication and strengthen cooperation. Thus, input has been sought in developing the programme from organizations active in the field, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the International Chamber of Commerce, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and Transparency International.

51. The Centre continued to provide technical assistance to requesting Member States in support of their efforts to fight corruption. It continued the implementation of three projects, in Lebanon, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The purpose of those projects is to create and strengthen the legislative and institutional capacity of the three countries to prevent and control corruption, in particular by means of drafting new or revising existing legislation, establishing special anti-corruption bodies, training criminal justice personnel and organizing public awareness campaigns.

52. In its resolution 1998/16 of 28 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council decided to convene an open-ended meeting of governmental experts to explore means of ensuring that recent multilateral initiatives against corruption were effective and that an appropriate international strategy against corruption, including the proceeds of corruption, was formulated in consultation with other intergovernmental organizations active in the area. In pursuance of that mandate, the Centre was taking measures, at the time of writing of the present report, to organize a meeting in Paris from 30 March to 1 April 1999, with the financial support of the Government of France, to be attended by experts from the States members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and representatives of relevant international organizations.

53. The Centre is currently preparing a revised and expanded version of the manual on practical measures against corruption,[5] scheduled to be ready in the second half of 1999.

VI. Collecting and disseminating information

54. The Centre has continued its efforts to reinforce its capacity and performance in the collection, analysis and dissemination of pertinent data and other information on crime trends and the operations of criminal justice systems so as to better inform policy development and programme implementation. In close concert with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the Centre promotes research and produces publications on new and emerging forms of crime. It continues to assist in upgrading national capacities for the collection, analysis and use of criminal justice data through the application of modern information technologies. It also maintains the Internet-based United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network.

55. The Advisory Steering Group on Data Collection and Computerization, established pursuant to Economic and

Social Council resolutions 1996/11 of 23 July 1996 and 1997/27 of 21 July 1997, advises the Centre in formulating and implementing strategies for data collection and dissemination. With the support of the Governments of Argentina and the Netherlands, the Group has so far met twice, in March 1997 and March 1998. Guided by the Group, the Centre has pursued three specific initiatives:

(a) *Streamlining the sixth United Nations survey on crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems*. The quinquennial surveys on crime trends and operations of criminal justice systems is the Centre's primary vehicle for the collection of national-level statistics on crime trends and criminal justice. To date, over 100 countries have provided official data on police, prosecution, courts, prisons and resource allocation. The sixth survey is currently being administered to Governments. Data from that survey are expected to be available in the second half of 1999;

(b) *Finalizing the Guide on the Development and Analysis of Criminal Justice Statistics*. The Centre is cooperating with the Statistics Division of the Secretariat and the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics in preparing the *Guide*, which will assist developing countries in the collection, maintenance and analysis of crime and criminal justice data and information and in computerizing criminal justice systems;

(c) *Developing a methodology for collecting data and information on organized transnational crime*. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/27 of 24 July 1996 and 1997/22 of 21 July 1997 and the priority assigned to fighting transnational organized crime, steps are being taken to expand the Centre's repository on transnational organized crime. The Advisory Steering Group has drafted a survey instrument on organized crime, which has been tested on a pilot basis. It will be modified on the basis of feedback, prior to being used as an information template in the project for assessing the dangerousness of groups involved in transnational organized crime mentioned above (para. 23).

56. Data collected by the Centre through the surveys and other means are used and presented in publications. Thus, extensive data obtained from the previous surveys has been analysed and presented in the *Global Report on Crime and Justice*, to be published by Oxford University Press in 1999, which offers a comprehensive review of the state of crime in the world and addresses topics as diverse as punishment, policing strategies, crime prevention, firearm regulation, drug control and organized crime.

57. The Centre has joined forces with UNDCP to produce two new publication series:

(a) *ODCCP Studies on Drugs and Crime*, the first issue of which was published in December 1998, entitled "Financial havens, banking secrecy and money-laundering";

(b) The *United Nations Journal on Drugs and Crime*.

58. The Centre continues to pursue vigorously the dissemination of information, especially by electronic means, by maintaining and expanding the Internet-based United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network (accessible at http://www.ifs.univie.ac.at/~uncjin/uncjin.html), a database on crime statistics, publications and links to relevant United Nations entities, research organizations and universities. The results of the Centre's research and information-gathering activities are entered into the database. Its content has been further expanded during the past year. For example, it now includes the Secretary-General's reports to several recent sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in English, French and Spanish. Also available are the documents of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Draft Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; data and other information gathered to prepare the United Nations International Study on Firearm Regulation; and a global bibliography of prisons systems.

VII. Technical cooperation

59. In 1998, the Centre supported projects with budgets totalling over $4 million. Some $2.5 million of that amount represents activities funded from the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. The remaining $1.5 million was provided by UNDP. Those projects, substantive information on which is contained in the relevant sections of the present report, are listed below in table 1.

60. In responding to the technical cooperation needs of Member States, the Centre is also guided by the following considerations:

(a) *A systematic effort to translate into concrete activities at the field level the priorities of the Centre*;

(b) *Priority to be given to developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are reforming their justice systems*. The Centre will encourage

Table 1

Technical cooperation projects supported by the Centre for International Crime Prevention in 1998

Country	*Project*	*Total budget (United States dollars)*	*Role of the Centre for International Crime Prevention*
Albania	Plan of Action for the justice system in Albania	127 050	Cooperating agency
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Strengthening the administration of justice in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	380 000	Cooperating agency
	Strengthening the administration of justice in the Republika Srpska	390 000	Cooperating agency
Kyrgyzstan	Enhancing the capacity to fight organized crime	180 000	Cooperating agency
Lebanon	Support for the national anti-corruption plan	273 460	Funding and executing agency
	Strengthening the legislative and institutional capacity for juvenile justice	840 000	Funding and executing agency
Romania	Institution-building and strengthening of corruption control capacity	325 000	Funding and cooperating agency
South Africa	Mechanisms to counteract domestic violence	660 000	Funding and associate agency
	Preparatory assistance: support for the national crime prevention strategy	558 500	Cooperating agency
	Measures to counteract organized crime	400 000	Funding and cooperating agency
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Assistance in anti-corruption law reform	29 500	Funding and cooperating agency
	Total	**4 163 510**	
	Funded by the Centre	**2 527 960**	

a subregional rather than a national approach wherever conditions permit;

(c) *Synergy with UNDCP*. While keeping their distinct profiles, UNDCP and the Centre have developed close cooperation at the operational level. This is shown by the increased number of joint missions and in the design of new programmes for Albania, Guatemala, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan and the southern African region. This will allow a more comprehensive approach in dealing with issues such as organized crime, money-laundering, drug control and support to the criminal justice system;

(d) *Reinforced inter-agency cooperation*. In its technical cooperation activities, the Centre has sought to reinforce close cooperation with other relevant Secretariat entities and United Nations agencies. A concrete example is the Coordination Panel that the Centre has established with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNICEF in order to provide a coordinated response to requests for assistance in the field of juvenile justice;

(e) The *need to act increasingly as both funding and executing agency*. This will allow the Centre to retain substantive control over projects and, at the same time, to raise its visibility in the international arena.

61. Within the above context, work has begun on new initiatives in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Tajikistan and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in the Caucasus, the Caribbean and southern Africa. Those initiatives are currently at different stages of preparation.

62. The Centre's capacity to deliver technical assistance is also being enhanced by ensuring the presence of the Centre's staff at the country and subregional levels. In 1998, the Centre maintained its presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina in both the Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and established a field project office in Romania and a liaison office in Lebanon. An ODCCP regional office for southern Africa was established in Pretoria as a joint undertaking of UNDCP and the Centre. A similar ODCCP regional office for Central Asia is being established in Tashkent.

VIII. Mobilizing resources

63. The contributions provided to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund amounted to $274,715 in 1996, $2,166,326 in 1997 and $2,733,014 in 1998.

64. The total amount provided to the Centre through the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund over the past three years was $5,174,055, of which $4,470,070 (86 per cent) was earmarked for specific projects or activities. The trend in contributions shows a substantial increase between 1996 and 1998, albeit on an extremely modest baseline. The figure shows that increase and the distribution of contributions between general and specific purposes.

Figure

Pledges to the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund

(Thousands of US dollars)

65. Contributions to the Fund received during 1998 are listed in table 2.

66. There has been general recognition of the marked discrepancy between the mandates and the resources of the Centre. The increase in funding in recent year, while significant in percentage and encouraging, has been far too small to overcome that discrepancy. The Office of Internal Oversight Services suggested that a solution should be found by acting in a two-tier direction: streamlining the programme and improving the funding (see E/AC.51/1998/3). The Centre has acted on the first tier and is pursuing a more focused programme of work. It is for the Member States to act on the second tier by improving the funding.

Table 2

Contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund in 1998
(United States dollars)

Country	*General purpose*	*Special purpose*	*Total*
Austria	78 740[a]	660 000[a]	738 740
Brazil	15 000[b]	-	15 000
Canada	-	6 944[a]	6 944
Iceland	4 898[a]	-	4 898
India	3 000[b]	-	3 000
Italy	137 928[a]	458 800	596 728
Morocco	2 000[b]	-	2 000
Netherlands	-	106 641[c]	106 641
Philippines	1 000[b]	-	1 000
Republic of Korea	11 250[a]	-	11 250
Slovenia	609[a]	-	609
Switzerland	-	709 220[c]	709 220
Thailand	3 000[b]	-	3 000
Tunisia	1 400[b]	-	1 400
Turkey	25 000[b]	25 000[b]	50 000
United States of America	43 500[b]	467 500[b]	511 000
Venezuela	4 084[a]	-	4 084
Other public donations	-	7 500[a]	7 500
Total	**331 409**	**2 441 605**	**2 773 014**

[a] Paid.
[b] Pledged.
[c] Paid in part.

IX. Coordinating the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and promoting partnerships

67. An essential component of the Centre's work in the past year has been an effort to realign, reinforce and expand a result-oriented work relationship with the institutes of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, the relevant entities of the Secretariat and the rest of the United Nations system, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other competent institutions. This has proceeded hand in hand with the intense pursuit, described elsewhere in the present report, of closest work synergy with UNDCP, the sister entity of the Centre within ODCCP, thus giving operational effect to the Secretary-General's reform measures in this field. Those efforts are guided by the basic objectives of eliminating duplication, making the best use of each other's competencies and achieving coordinated action at all levels of operation.

68. Ongoing effective coordination of undertakings is now being ensured between the Centre and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, which has now been repositioned to serve as the research arm supporting the Centre's work. A telling example of the new work relationship is the joint ownership of the global programmes against corruption and trafficking in human beings and the project to study organized crime.

69. Efforts have also been advanced, and will continue, to forge more productive cooperation with other institutes participating in the Programme network. For example, the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, in 1998 published "Crime and Criminal Justice in Europe and North America: 1990-1994", containing the results of an innovative analysis of the national responses to the Fifth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, carried out by the European Institute with the support of the Centre. The European Institute and the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders are working closely with the Centre to coordinate two of the workshops for the Tenth Congress. The African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders assist the Centre with the holding of the respective regional meetings for the Congress.

70. The Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the institutes comprising the Programme network (E/CN.15/1999/4).

71. In pursuing its work, the Centre is strengthening its partnerships and developing new ones with several entities. In particular, within the Secretariat and the United Nations system, these include the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office for Project Services, UNICEF,

UNDP, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Tourism Organization. Among its other major partners are the American Society of Criminology, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the International Criminal Police Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the International Sociological Association, the Korean Institute of Criminology, the Libero Istituto Universitario Carlo Cattaneo in Castellanza, Italy, the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg, Germany, the National Institute of Justice of the United States Department of Justice and the Organization of American States.

X. Future challenges

72. The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme focused in the past on establishing and promoting the use of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. Those standards and norms now constitute the cornerstones of humane and effective criminal justice systems. In the meantime, the changed global environment has necessitated a strategic reorientation of the Centre's activities. At present, with the collapse of dictatorial regimes, the re-establishment of democracies and the increased global flow of communications, there is a more conducive atmosphere for the application of standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. On the other hand, however, some of those developments have their disadvantages.

73. The very mechanisms of democratization, technological advances and globalization of markets and communications also provide the opportunity for uncivil elements of society to pose new criminal threats to nations and indeed to the entire international community. Those new threats, exemplified by illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in women and children and international corruption, cannot be countered by countries singlehandedly. They require the international community to reconsider the nature and objectives of international collaboration in criminal matters. A multilateral approach is often required. The new type of collaboration goes far beyond the ad hoc provision of mutual legal aid in individual cases. Agencies will have to work together on a more permanent basis in both policy-making and operational activities. More than in the past technical cooperation will directly serve the interests of both recipient and donor countries. The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, with its various mandates and institutional arrangements, seems the most efficient springboard for such collaboration.

74. There are two main challenges that lie ahead for the Centre—and for the Member States, which define its mandate and provide its resources. The first is to maintain a realistic sense of what is achievable. It is essential for the Centre to be efficient in all its activities and to be selective in undertaking new tasks. The second challenge is resources; the international agenda keeps on expanding to such an extent that the means available to the Centre have long been inadequate. Unless a wider and more stable resource basis is secured, a major credibility gap will develop between mandates and requests for action and the actual capacity to deliver. The Centre is sparing no effort to present to Member States a credible, focused and output-oriented programme of work. It will then be the task of Governments to provide the necessary means to sustain and implement their agenda in international crime prevention.

Notes

[1] See *World Development Report 1997: The State in a Changing World* (Oxford, Oxford University Press for World Bank, 1997).

[2] A/CONF.183/9.

[3] See A/52/777, annex.

[4] A/49/748, annex, chap. I, sect. A.

[5] "Crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development: realities and perspectives of international cooperation: practical measures against corruption", *International Review of Criminal Policy*, Nos. 41 and 42 (New York, United Nations, 1993).

[6] See *United Nations International Study on Firearm Regulation* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.IV.2).